

interest in developing all of our human capital, an opportunity which the Special Olympics USA National Games provides.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: UNMC Environmental Health Informatics Data Base

Amount: \$238,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: UNMC 987680 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198

Description of earmark: Money will be used to create a Midwest Health Informatics database to assess environmental influences on the development of diseases by collecting health information from 50,000 Midwesterners. This database would be the first research cohort in the Midwest to study the relationship between rural populations, the environment, and disease development. This project could reveal environmental factors responsible for birth defects or lymphoma, a cancer with high incidence in Nebraska. The data will provide valuable information on the factors influencing development of deadly diseases like cancer.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE AND EXPAND THE USE OF DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (FSA)

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to encourage and expand the use of Dependent Care Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

Millions of people rely on child care to be able to work, and increasingly, to look for work, while others are responsible for older parents or disabled family members. Child and dependent care is a critical issue and a large expense for many American families.

Across the country, annual prices for full-time child and dependent care have increased dramatically. The average price for full-time care for a toddler is approximately \$7,000 according to the National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies—infants cost even more. My state of Wisconsin is among the highest, with an average cost of \$12,000. Meanwhile, the out-of-pocket cost of caring for an aging parent or spouse can easily exceed \$6,000 a year.

To lighten the financial burden for working individuals, Congress created the Dependent Care FSA. A Dependent Care FSA enables individuals to put aside a set amount of money each year to help pay for eligible dependent care expenses for children under the age of 13, or others who can be claimed as a dependent, including a parent or spouse. The money set-aside is pretax, thus reducing a person's taxable income.

My legislation will improve the Dependent Care FSA by increasing the exclusion amount to \$7,500 for families and indexing it to inflation on an annual basis. Increasing this amount to reflect the changing times will provide more financial relief to parents raising children and/or caring for adults. The legisla-

tion would also allow individuals to roll over any unused funds to the following year. Under current law, each household is permitted to set aside up to \$5,000 annually pre-taxed. The \$5,000 limit has been in effect since 1986, even though the cost of care has risen significantly since then.

I am pleased that employers are increasingly recognizing the need to address dependent care issues in the workplace by offering Dependent Care FSAs. It is my hope that Congress will raise the current Dependent Care FSA limit to better reflect the changing workforce and help individuals plan and pay for the care they need at home as they earn a living.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE NAPLES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples Toastmasters Club upon the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

Anyone who has ever had to give a speech in front of an audience knows what a tense and sometimes nerve-racking experience it can be. Fortunately, Toastmasters International and its chapters across the globe have been helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience for over 80 years.

The Naples Toastmasters Club in Naples, Florida provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment for members to develop their communication and leadership skills. Increasingly, these skills have become vital to success in the classroom, in the workplace, and in life. Perhaps even more importantly, Toastmasters helps people increase their self-confidence and allows them to reach their professional and personal goals.

The members of the Naples Toastmasters Club are some of the most giving and productive members of our community. They continue to empower a new generation of Southwest Floridians to develop the leadership and communication skills needed to make significant contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker, the Naples Toastmasters Club's enthusiasm and passion for serving our community is inspiring, and their efforts have helped to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent the members of the Naples Toastmasters Club in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Volunteers as we celebrate the Peace Corps's 48th anniversary on March 1, 2009. From its beginnings under President John F. Kennedy

until now, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grassroots level in the developing world.

As in all things, the strength of the Peace Corps is in its people—its volunteers. Volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education and health care.

In fact, Danny and Shirley Sherrod from my district just retired from their careers and have volunteered to spend the next two years serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in Panama. Danny and Shirley said that their conversations with other volunteers made a huge impact on their lives, so they are using this new time out of retirement to volunteer. This is but one example of the selfless dedication that people like Danny and Shirley Sherrod of Fort Worth, TX, commit to bringing to the Peace Corps and to our world.

Through Peace Corps service, volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive invaluable training that enables them to succeed in different cultural settings. Returning volunteers often use these skills and experiences to pursue careers in the Federal Government and in the Foreign Service.

As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the State-Foreign Operations, I am proud that this Subcommittee provides the funding and the resources needed to continue the good work that the Peace Corps is doing around the world.

This week, during the National Peace Corps Week, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

CELEBRATING THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Delaware and Raritan Canal upon its 175th Anniversary Celebration. This year New Jersey towns and community groups along the canal will celebrate the rich contributions of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and I wholeheartedly join them.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, which spans more than 66 miles across the State of New Jersey, has an important place in New Jersey history, and provides scenic and recreational facilities that New Jersey families enjoy today.

In our state's early history, the Delaware and Raritan Canal provided a significant route for the movement of commerce and people. As part of the Intracoastal Waterway, the canal also played an important role of connecting towns and people from Florida to New England.

All along the route, canal boats delivered Pennsylvania anthracite coal to factories, homes, and coal yards in New Jersey, New York harbor, and points north and south. They brought farm products to market; carried store-